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Typhoid fever in Matanzas.

Reports having reached the Bureau that typhus fever was prevalent in Matanzas, the following cablegrams were sent and received :

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 2, 1897.—Brice, Consul, Matanzas, Cuba.: Is typhus fever there?

[Reply.]

MATANZAS, December 3, 1897.—Wyman, Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.: Typhus, no; typhoid, Eberth, yes.—BRICE, Consul.

Sanitary report from Habana.

HABANA, CUBA, December 4, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the transactions of this office and of sanitary matters for the week ended Thursday, December 2, 1897, with the mortality from the principal causes of death for the same time:

While receiving no direct statement from the State board of health of Florida as to the termination of the close of quarantine season, I was guided by the proclamation issued by that board on October 19 and published by the Bureau in the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS of November 5, and on December 1 nine immunes were allowed to enter Key West and Tampa. While persons not immune to yellow fever have been allowed to leave here, none are allowed to go without successful vaccination.

Over 80 per cent of the people going to the two ports named above are of the lower class, and are extremely filthy in their habits, and should be overhauled at any period of the year.

The harbor work, i. e., inspection of vessels bound for the United States, takes up nearly all the time of Assistant Sanitary Inspector Dudley; this work being much in excess of previous weeks, and due in a great measure to the increasing cattle trade.

Your attention is invited to a part of the relief service given by this office to the crews of vessels of the Ward Line of steamships plying between New York, Habana, and ports in Mexico, these ports being Tuxpan, Tampico, Vera Cruz, and Progreso. The vessels, after leaving New York, touch here, when they proceed to the Mexican ports, and again return here on the return voyage, when their crews are inspected previous to their sailing to New York, and seldom do we find any cases of sickness aboard; but on the arrival of the ship from New York, over 14 days from Habana and 21 days from the Mexican ports, some of the crew are invariably found suffering from a remittent form of malarial fever, and designated by the sailors as "Tampico fever." The name is given because the steamers lie at Tampico over nights, and the men are allowed freedom at that port. The disease yields readily to quinine, and no fatal results have been noted.

The rainy season has passed and the weather is cool, but the death rate remains high.

Yellow fever showed a slight increase over the previous week, but most of the deaths occurred in the military hospitals. The death rate from other fevers is also high, and the deaths from intestinal diseases appear to be increasing.